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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/481)]

70/129. Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/138 of 20 December 2012 on integrating volunteering in the next decade,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, education, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, social welfare, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Recognizing also that an approach to volunteering may consider drawing on the notion of human security in accordance with all the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, and taking note of the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, such as the International Forum for Volunteering in Development and the International Association for Volunteer Effort,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the *State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015: Transforming Governance*, which highlights that volunteerism provides a key channel for enhanced civic engagement from the local to the national and global contexts through local capacity-building, fostering social inclusion and promoting voice, participation, accountability and responsiveness,

Welcoming also the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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Conference on Financing for Development,[2] in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that volunteer groups can help to localize the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on integrating volunteering in the next decade,[3] including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, and recognizes that it could be considered in a flexible and adaptable manner;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Encourages* Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and "One United Nations" plans, and also encourages the meaningful participation and integration of volunteers into programmes and projects through the provision of adequate means for volunteer action to promote the inclusion of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

4. *Emphasizes* that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement, leadership and participation to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing young people to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

5. *Commends* the positive contributions of national and international volunteers in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and reaffirms the importance of integrating volunteering into peacebuilding and conflict-prevention activities, as appropriate, to build social cohesion and solidarity;

6. *Also commends* the contributions of volunteers to community resilience for environmental and disaster risk reduction, and calls upon all stakeholders to

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[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[3] A/70/118 and Corr.1.

recognize and integrate the role of volunteers into disaster risk management, as appropriate;

7. *Urges* Governments and all other stakeholders to facilitate volunteer action in poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, recognizing the role that volunteers can play in improving access to employment, education, health care, social protection and public goods through engagement in participatory planning, implementation and monitoring, as appropriate;

8. *Urges* Governments and all related stakeholders to incorporate volunteerism into gender mainstreaming strategies, recognizing that peer-to-peer informal volunteering can help to reduce violence against women and girls, contribute to the achievement of gender equality, empower women and girls and strengthen their civic and political participation and leadership;

9. *Invites* Member States to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, including collecting data disaggregated by gender, age and disability, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide sound knowledge as a foundation for policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity and knowledge transmission through volunteering programmes;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to support United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms, especially for those who are marginalized or in remote locations;

12. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

13. *Requests* Member States to give full consideration to the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and volunteer-involving organizations to support, as appropriate, the institutional and resource arrangements set out therein, while recognizing that in the case of the United Nations system this will be done through voluntary contributions;

14. *Invites* the collaboration of the United Nations Volunteers programme and other organizations, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in jointly organizing a global technical meeting in 2020 to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Recognizes* the United Nations Volunteers programme as the appropriate United Nations entity to support the implementation of the plan of action, and expects the programme to coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, under the item entitled "Social development".

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015